

Frequently Asked Questions

Modifications to Federally Permitted Seafood Dealer Electronic Reporting Requirements in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Regions.

December 2013

What is the Dealer Electronic Reporting Requirements Amendment?

- The Dealer Electronic Reporting Requirements Amendment would amend eight fishery management plans (FMPs).

Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico
Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources
Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico
Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region
Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic
Spiny Lobster of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic
Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic States

- The Dealer Electronic Reporting Requirements Amendment would modify data reporting for federally permitted dealers in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic requiring them to submit weekly electronic purchase reports to NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center, or at intervals shorter than a week if notified otherwise. Previously reports were submitted monthly.
- The Dealer Electronic Reporting Requirements Plan Amendment would also require dealers to report purchases of king mackerel landed by the gillnet sector for the Gulf West Coast Florida Southern Sub-Zone by 6:00 a.m. daily.
- If no purchase is made, a report indicating that no purchase was made must still be submitted on a weekly basis.
- Delinquent reports automatically result in the dealer becoming ineligible to receive the specified federally managed species regardless of any notification by NOAA Fisheries. A dealer would only be authorized to receive the specified federally managed species if the dealer's previous reports have been submitted and received by NOAA Fisheries.

Why is the Dealer Electronic Reporting Amendment necessary?

- One of the purposes of this action is to allow better monitoring of commercial annual catch limits. Currently, overages have the potential to result in significant disruption in fishing behavior the following fishing year if the overage is subtracted from the allowable harvest. This can reduce revenue for fishermen and seafood dealers. Overages may also decrease the ability of fish populations to rebuild.
- The increased frequency of dealer reporting will help improve population assessments because it will provide a more accurate record of commercial landings.

What are the proposed changes to the reporting requirements?

- The proposed action would modify the current permitting and reporting requirements for seafood dealers who first receive federally managed species. Currently, there are six federal dealer permits in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Regions, and the permits and reporting requirements are different depending on the species purchased. Federally permitted Gulf of Mexico reef fish, South Atlantic snapper-grouper, and South Atlantic wreckfish dealers are required to submit dealer purchase forms once every two weeks via fax or online. South Atlantic golden crab, rock shrimp, and Atlantic dolphin-wahoo dealers are required to submit purchase forms once a month via fax or online. The following new dealer reporting requirements would be implemented
 - Federally permitted dealers purchasing federally managed species are required to report weekly or at intervals shorter than a week, if notified otherwise.
 - If no purchase is made, a no-purchase report must be submitted via the same process and frequency as a purchase form.
 - A dealer would only be authorized to receive the specified federally managed species if the dealer's previous reports have been submitted and received by NOAA Fisheries.

What if I don't submit fishing records on time?

- Federally permitted dealers who are delinquent in submitting their reports are prohibited from continuing to purchase products managed in the eight fishery management plans listed above until they have submitted all required reports.

Where can I find more information about the amendment?

- The Dealer Electronic Reporting Requirements Amendment is available on line at: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_sa/generic/2013/dealer_reporting/index.html, or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Web site: <http://www.gulfcouncil.org/>.
- Any questions regarding reporting requirements should be directed to the Southeast Fisheries Science Center at (305) 361-4200.